

REMARKS

To further prosecution of the present application, Applicant has cancelled herein Claims 1-5 and has added herein new Claims 6-17, with Claims 6 and 12 in independent form. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

Rejection of Claims 1-3 Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3 have been rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Specifically, Claim 1 has been rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,046,661 issued to Kimura ("Kimura"), and Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,174,491 issued to Taylor et al. ("Taylor"). Claim 3 has been rejected as being anticipated by U.S. 5,360,159 Patent No. to Perriman ("Perriman"). Applicant has cancelled herein Claims 1-3 and accordingly respectfully requests withdrawal of the claim rejections. Applicant respectfully submits new Claims 6-17 added herein are patentably distinct over the prior art references of record for at least the reasons given below.

New independents Claims 6 and 12 are patentably distinct from Kimura in that Claims 6 and 12 are directed to an intermediate for forming a Z-fold multi-page mailer from a six-panel intermediate whereas Kimura discloses a multi-page leaflet formed from a Z-folded three panel sheet. The three panel sheet is defined by two parallel transverse fold lines (4) and includes, along a first surface, adhesive zones (2) along joining fringes such that where a first panel face (A) is folded about a fold line (4), and in face-to-face relation to a second panel face (B), the adhesive zones would mate, as shown in Figure 1. Similarly, the three panel sheet includes, along a second surface, adhesive zones (2) along joining fringes such that where a third panel face (C') is folded about a fold line (4), and in face-to-face relation to the second panel face (B'), the adhesive zones would mate, as shown in Figure 2.

In addition, Kimura does not disclose at least a central transverse fold line and a first and a second longitudinal fold lines that define the intermediate of Claims 6 and 12 as a six-panel intermediate such that the intermediate forms a multi-page mailer by folding along the central transverse fold line and thereafter Z-folding respective pairs of panels.

Kimura therefore does not teach each and every element of independent Claims 6 and 12, nor provide teachings or suggestions that would render the intermediates recited therein obvious.

Claims 6 and 12 are also patentably distinct from the six-panel intermediate (54) Taylor discloses. Specifically, as shown in Figures 5-7, the six-panel intermediate of Taylor is configured to fold about a central fold line (61) and includes pluralities of adhesive patterns disposed along a first and a second surface (59) and (60). Subsequent to folding the intermediate along the central fold line (61), the intermediate is C-folded about a first longitudinal fold line (62) to mate corresponding adhesive patterns (66) and (67) on the first surface (59) along panels (71) and (75) and subsequently to fold the intermediate about a second longitudinal fold line (63) to mate adhesive patterns (81) and (82) on the first surface along panel (72) with adhesive patterns (80) and (83) on the first surface along panel (70).

Applicant respectfully submits Taylor does not disclose at least the pluralities of adhesive or cohesive patterns required by Claims 6 and 12 that are disposed on the first and the second surface in order to Z-fold the sheet into a Z-folded mailer. In particular, Taylor does not disclose at least the fourth plurality of adhesive or cohesive patterns disposed on the second surface immediately adjacent and to the left and to the right of the central transverse fold line with the patterns being transverse and substantially parallel to the central transverse fold line, as required by Claims 6 and 12. (See numeral 50 in Figures 4 and 13 of the application specification). In fact, as shown in Figure 5, Taylor discloses the second face (60) along the marginal portions adjacent the center fold line (61) are devoid of adhesive patterns to minimize the thickness of the marginal portions of the intermediate. (Fig. 5, col. 1, lines 63-67 and col. 5, lines 22-25).

In addition, Taylor does not disclose the first and the second pairs of parallel longitudinal lines of weakness bisecting and extending between the first and the second transverse end edges and disposed such that the first longitudinal fold line is positioned between and substantially parallel to the first pair of longitudinal lines of weakness and the second longitudinal fold line is positioned between and substantially parallel to the second pair of longitudinal lines of weakness, as required in Claims 6 and 12. Rather, Taylor specifically discloses that lines of weakness (64) through (69) are spaced from the intermediate edges (55) and (58) and the center fold line (61), but preferably not along the longitudinal fold lines (62) and (63). (col. 6, lines 33-37). As shown in Figure 7D of the specification of the present application, the first and the second pairs of parallel longitudinal lines of weakness required by Claims 6 and 12 help to permit removal of the first and the

second horizontal stub portions and one of the first and the second vertical stub portions from the Z-folded mailer. Taylor therefore does not teach each and every element of independent Claims 6 and 12, nor provide teachings or suggestions that would render the intermediates recited therein obvious.

Also, with respect to Perriman, independent Claims 6 and 12 are patentably distinct from Perriman for at least those reasons given above with respect to Taylor. In particular, Perriman discloses a two-panel mailer form for C-folding about a center fold line. Perriman therefore does not disclose each and every element of Claims 6 and 12, nor renders such claims obvious.

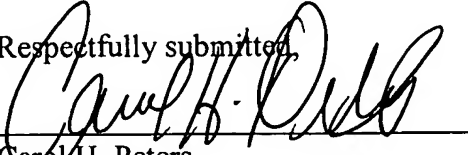
Further, new independent Claims 6 and 12 are patentably distinct from U.S. Patent No. 5,829,670 issued to Lombardo et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,131,802 issued to Lombardo, and U.S. Patent No. 6,126,064 issued to Hutchinson, which are disclosed on form PTO-892 of the Office Action. In particular, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,829,670 and 6,131,802 are directed to three panel intermediate forms that are configured to be C-folded or Z-folded into mailers, which are not configured as a multi-page mailer. U.S. Patent No. 6,126,064 is directed to a four panel configured to be C-folded into a mailer, which is not configure as a multi-page mailer.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits the intermediate of independent Claim 6 and independent Claim X are patentably distinct from the prior art references of record.

Claims 7-11 depend from Claim 6 and are patentable over the references of record for at least the reasons given above. In addition, Claims 13-17 depend from Claim 12 and are patentable over the references of record for at least the reasons give above.

Based upon the foregoing amendments and discussion, the present application is in condition for allowance, and an action to this effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this response, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 16, 2006